

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and further examination are requested.

Claims 39 and 41 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 32, 36 and 37 have been rejected in three separate rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The first rejection is based on the disclosure of Vallone (US 6,642,939) in view of the disclosures of Vynne (US 5,960,081), and MPEG-7: Applications and Supporting Technologies, pages 61-64, Mohamed Abdel-Mottaleb, 1998 (hereinafter Mohamed). The second rejection is based on the disclosure of Vallone in view of the disclosures of Vynne and Augenbraun (US 5,857,181). The third rejection is based on the disclosure of Vallone in view of the disclosures of Vynne and WO 99/22502.

Claim 35 has been rejected as being obvious from the combinations of (1) Vallone, Vynne, Mohamed and "Official Notice", (2) Vallone, Vynne, Augenbraun and "Official Notice", and (3) Vallone, Vynne, WO 99/22502 and "Official Notice". However, claim 35 is submitted to be patentable over these references for the reasons set forth above in support of claim 32, since claim 35 depends from claim 32. Claims 38 and 40 have been rejected as being obvious from the combinations (1) Vallone, Vynne, Mohamed, Shoff (US 6,240,555) and "Official Notice", (2) Vallone, Vynne, Augenbraun, Shoff and "Official Notice", and (3) Vallone, Vynne, WO 99/22502, Shoff and "Official Notice".

In order to expedite the prosecution of the application, claim 32 has been amended so as to include the features of claim 38 and allowable claim 39, and claim 37 has been amended so as to include the features of claim 40 and allowable claim 41. Further, claims 38-43 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. As a result, all of the remaining claims are allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Eiji UEDA et al.

By: /David M. Ovedovitz/
2008.12.10 16:12:53 -05'00'

David M. Ovedovitz
Registration No. 45,336
Attorney for Applicants

DMO/jmj
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
December 10, 2008